

The Grieving Habits of Live Poets

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Fandom:

[Dead Poets Society \(1989\)](#)

Characters:

[Charlie Dalton](#), [Knox Overstreet](#), [Steven Meeks](#), [Gerard Pitts](#),
[Richard Cameron](#), [Todd Anderson](#), [Neil Perry](#), [Chris Noel](#)
(mentioned)

Additional Tags:

[Poetry](#), [Grief/Mourning](#), [Loss](#)

Language:

[English](#)

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The Grieving Habits of Live Poets

by [I_Am_The_Circle](#)

Summary

The boys all react to Neil's death in their own ways.

Notes

Hi everyone, this is the first piece I've published in a long time.
Hope you like it.

Thanks to anderperry on tumblr for encouraging me to post some stuff.

Charlie responds with defiance, which surprises no one
He won't stop Todd from screaming, he won't sing the hymns
He sure as hell won't stand by and listen to Cameron's lies
He won't give up Keating's teachings, he won't abandon the decisions
he'd made
Nuwanda responds with defiance, and he won't give up

Knox responds with confusion, and shocked tears he can neither stop
nor express
He gazes off into space while disbelief combats the truth
His voice is choked, his eyes distant,
His mind free of Chris Noel for the first time in months,
He thinks of the impossibility of a boy so very alive suddenly gone
Knox responds with confusion and utter disbelief

Steven responds with contemplation, and his hindsight is clear as day
He reviews the signs they all missed and analyzes the sources of error
His jaw is clenched, his brow is knit,
His eyes troubled behind frames that were no assistance in seeing the
things that mattered
Steven responds with contemplation of his errors, and for the first
time he has failed

Gerard responds with silence, no yawps of grief and loss
He speaks even less than usual, foregoing communication
He doesn't ask his friends what they could have done better,
Because he knows they are all thinking the same things
Gerard responds with silence, because his thoughts are radio static

Richard responds with blame, as some predicted he would
He returns to the rule book when in doubt
And believes the designated scapegoat appointed by the officials he
respects
He ceases secret meetings and ignores life lessons,
Choosing instead to follow what the textbook suggests
Richard responds with blame, conditioned by years of submission to
conformity

Todd responds with intensity rarely seen before
He screams his yawp of pure grief into the morning snow,
Begging and pleading and making excuses, louder than they've ever
heard him
He observes the beauty of the morning and is sickened by its irony
He screams his words for the first time, desperate for them to change

the world

Todd responds with intensity but is met only with snow

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